

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

As Engrossed: H3/2/07

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1517

5 By: Representatives Cook, Blount, T. Bradford, J. Johnson, Rainey, Saunders, Walters  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE 2006 ACT 57 STUDY;  
10 TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
11 EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF  
12 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
13

### Subtitle

14 AN ACT TO EXPAND MONITORING BY THE  
15 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL  
16 DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOOL  
17 IMPROVEMENT PLANS.  
18  
19  
20

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
22

23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. ACT 57 COMPLIANCE.

24 The General Assembly declares this act to be in concordance with the  
25 study of the state's system of public education conducted in 2006 by the  
26 Adequacy Study Oversight Subcommittee, the Senate Interim Committee on  
27 Education, and the House Interim Committee on Education in compliance with  
28 Act 57 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003.  
29

30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-15-426(e)-(f), concerning school  
31 improvement, is amended to read as follows:

32 (e) ~~Any~~ Each public school or school district ~~classified as in-school~~  
33 ~~improvement~~ shall develop and file with the department a ~~revised~~  
34 comprehensive school improvement plan which shall be reviewed by the  
35 department and shall be designed to ensure that all students have an  
36 opportunity to obtain an adequate education and demonstrate proficiency on



1 all portions of the state-mandated ~~critierion-referenced~~ benchmark tests.

2 (f) The comprehensive school improvement plan shall include  
3 ~~strategies to address the achievement gap existing for any identifiable group~~  
4 ~~or subgroup as identified in the program and the gap of that subgroup from~~  
5 ~~the academic standard.;~~

6 (1) A statement of the public school's mission, against which  
7 the goals, interventions, and actions of the comprehensive school improvement  
8 plan may be measured;

9 (2) Identification of the areas of greatest need based on  
10 analysis of assessment data;

11 (3) Statements of the three (3) most current years of assessment  
12 data, including without limitation:

13 (A) Criterion-referenced tests;

14 (B) Norm-referenced tests; and

15 (C) Attendance or graduation rate;

16 (4) Identification of specific weaknesses based on data analysis  
17 and statements of goals to address those weaknesses;

18 (5) Benchmark statements identifying the anticipated scores or  
19 status advancement of a particular student population, on a particular  
20 measurement instrument, by a specified time;

21 (6)(A) Intervention statements describing proposed research-  
22 based programs, initiatives, or strategies to address the student academic,  
23 behavioral, and social needs identified in the data analysis.

24 (B) Scientifically-based research shall be included to  
25 support the interventions;

26 (7) Specific components relating to Title I schools, America's  
27 Choice schools, and schools classified in school improvement, as determined  
28 by the department;

29 (8) Description of actions involving:

30 (A) Alignment of school district policies, curriculum,  
31 instruction, assessment, and resources;

32 (B) Collaboration of all persons and organizations  
33 necessary to conduct an intervention;

34 (C) Funds and programs used to reduce differences among  
35 student population groups;

36 (D) Periodic review and evaluation of the comprehensive

1 school improvement plan and revision;

2 (E) Professional development that is related to the  
3 comprehensive school improvement plan and designed to increase student  
4 learning and achievement;

5 (F) Use of technology to achieve benchmarks;

6 (G) Special education activities; and

7 (H) Parental involvement in the school; and

8 (I) Wellness;

9 (9) The use of public school funding under the Public School  
10 Funding Act of 2003, § 6-20-2301, et seq., for the following:

11 (A) Instructional facilitators, as that term is defined  
12 by the State Board of Education;

13 (B) Alternative learning environments, professional  
14 development, English-language learners, and national school lunch students  
15 identifying specific:

16 (i) Educational strategies;

17 (ii) Resources used, including tutors, teachers'  
18 aides, counselors, social workers, and nurses; and

19 (iii) Expenditures made from categorical funds  
20 provided under § 6-20-2305(b);

21 (C) The appropriate use by the school of the financial  
22 management system applications of the Arkansas Public School Computer  
23 Network;

24 (D) The school district's program of training and staff  
25 development for school district employees who are responsible for the  
26 recording and reporting of school district fiscal transactions; and

27 (E) Other components of the comprehensive school  
28 improvement plan as the department may direct by rule;

29 (10) Any public school or school district classified as in  
30 school improvement under § 6-15-425 shall develop and file with the  
31 department a revised comprehensive school improvement plan meeting the  
32 requirements of this subsection (f) and containing any additional  
33 requirements determined necessary by the department to ensure that all  
34 students in the public school or school district have an opportunity to  
35 demonstrate proficiency on all portions of the state-mandated benchmark  
36 tests; and

1           (11) The department shall use the information obtained through  
 2 monitoring school improvement plans under this section to:

3           (A) Assess the areas in which the public school or school  
 4 district needs to revise its plan; or

5           (B) Determine the compliance of the public school or school  
 6 district with the provisions of this subchapter.

7           ~~(f) Professional development activities of a public school or public~~  
 8 ~~school district in school improvement shall be related to the comprehensive~~  
 9 ~~school improvement plan and designed to increase student learning and~~  
 10 ~~achievement.~~

11  
 12           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-20-2203(c), concerning the rules relating  
 13 to the uniform accounting system for public school districts, is amended to  
 14 read as follows:

15           (c) In addition, the rules or the handbook shall include, but not be  
 16 limited to:

17           (1) Categories to allow for the gathering of data on separate  
 18 functions and programs;

19           (2) Categories and descriptions of expenditures that each public  
 20 school or school district shall report on its annual school performance  
 21 report authorized by the School Performance Report Act, § 6-15-1401 et seq.  
 22 The reported expenditures shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
 23 categories:

24                   (A) Total expenditures;

25                   (B) Instructional expenditures;

26                   (C) Administrative expenditures;

27                   (D) Extracurricular expenditures;

28                   (E) Capital expenditures; and

29                   (F) Debt service expenditures;

30           (3) Categories and descriptions of public school and school  
 31 district expenditures that allow for the gathering of data on separate  
 32 functions and programs provided by law; ~~and~~

33           (4) Categories and descriptions of expenditures that each  
 34 education service cooperative shall report on its annual report authorized by  
 35 law; and

36           (5) Rules relating to error rates in coding and reporting

1 financial information under the system.

2 (6) Any public school or school district classified as in school  
3 improvement under § 6-15-425 shall develop and file with the department a  
4 revised comprehensive school improvement plan meeting the requirements of  
5 subdivision (e)(2) of this section and containing any additional requirements  
6 determined necessary by the department to ensure that all students in the  
7 public school or school district have an opportunity to demonstrate  
8 proficiency on all portions of the state-mandated criterion-referenced tests.

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10 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
11 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that in order to ensure an adequate  
12 education for all Arkansas public school students, public schools or school  
13 districts should be required to file detailed school improvement plans with  
14 the Department of Education, and the Department of Education should monitor  
15 compliance with those plans; and that this act is immediately necessary  
16 because the determination of educational strategies and the use of public  
17 funds to develop and implement school improvement plans depends on early  
18 planning by public school districts; that if these plans are not developed by  
19 July 1, 2007, public school students in those schools and school districts  
20 will not benefit from the proper implementation of the plans. Therefore, an  
21 emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for  
22 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become  
23 effective on:

24 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

25 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
26 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
27 bill; or

28 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
29 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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31 /s/ Cook, et al  
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